

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, April 27. 1706.

I Promised a Remark in the last *Review*, upon the Printing the Princess *Sophia* her Letter, which went here in the Name of Sir *Rowland Gwin*; and as I do not love to dwell upon a Subject, I shall make it very short.

Either the Letter was Publish'd by her Royal Highnesses Order, and with her Knowledge and Consent, or without it. —

If with her Knowledge and Consent, Why was it not said so? Or if by Order, why not the Copy of such an *Imprimatur* affix'd to it, as is the constant Practice in all Countries, in things Publish'd by Authority? Or why has it not been since Alleg'd, in defence of the Action.

If without the Knowledge, Consent, or License of the Princess, then let the Publisher Answer to his own Discretion, the

good Manners, as well Justice to that Princess, of Publishing her private Letters without her Consent; and let him consider how much Goodness that Princess must Express, if he obtains her Pardon for such an Indecency.

I am told there is a Letter in Town, from Madam the Electress *Dowager*, under her own Hand, in which all Consent, Knowledge, or Order for the Publishing the said Letter is disown'd, and Expressing some Resentment at the Ill Treatment her Highness has receiv'd in it; which if true, leaves room for a great deal of Remark, which for the present I Adjourn; only I cannot refrain putting one Question to the World, which the Gentlemen, who are more immediately concern'd, may Answer if they know how. The Question is this:

How

How comes it to pass, that those Gentlemen in England, who declare themselves upon all occasions, against the Succession of the House of Hannover; who, if they were to come hither, would not own them, and who when they come, will not Swear Allegiance to them, are yet so Violently forward for Inviting them over?

How comes it to pass, that another sort of Gentlemen, who, tho' they are got over the Article of the Oaths, and can Swear to any Government as it comes uppermost, yet who all along inveigh against more Dutch Kings, and declare against the present Settlement of the Succession; Why these fall in also with the immediate Invitation?

Can it be possible, but these Circumstances concurring with others, should make even those, that are intirely in the Interest of the Family, and of the Succession, and would Rejoice to see them here, *Fearful and backward*, lest the Invitation should have some Sinister Design in it, if possible to make it fatal to both sides.

And who can but think, when they see the Proposal come from such People: Originally, *that they really press it*, by a Political turn of Thought, concluding it will receive some Scandal from their Character, and consequently be obstructed, which is what above all things they really desire.

There are other Consequences to be drawn from the Observations on this Affair, which for the present I omit; I am perswaded by my Observation, that the thing has some Contradictions in it, which want reconciling, rather for the enlightning those who wish well to the Succession, and seem to think themselves a little Impos'd upon in this Affair, than for the sake of the other, who but too well understand their own meaning in it; and if the following Paradoxes are to be found in this Matter, let them resolve them that think fit.

1. That when those Princes come over hither to possess the Crown, they will be least wellcome to some of those that are now most Violent to have them over.

2. That those People, who now seem most to be backward to invite them over, are

really most seriously desirous of having their coming over secur'd, when they shall be Legally call'd.

3. That the Opposing the Inviting the Successor over at this time, by those that wish to have her here, *if convenient*, springs from those that really never desire to have her here at all, and with a real desire to prevent it.

What strange things the Policies of Men put them upon? And how are they oblig'd to make their Actions seem to thwart their Inclinations, and by faint Disguises Imposing upon one another, and sometimes upon themselves, which show the Hypocrite instead of the honest Man, to bring about the Designs their own Fancies have laid Schemes on, and in which they often find, that instead of Deceiving others, they become the Subjects of their own Deceit.

I might enter here upon the warm Speeches we have had this last Parliament, in which the Efforts of a Party, tho' weak and Languishing, have discover'd the real Design, and any Man in his Sences might have seen what they drove at, tho' they had not strength to carry it on. — But as these things receiv'd an early Check, and one Gentleman did ten Weeks Penance for it in the Tower; those that should have Seconded him, restrain'd their Choller, and obtain'd to be Excus'd, by Explaining themselves in their own Favour.

But I leave this, and come to the more refin'd steps, the Politicks of this Party lead them to, and that is, Whispers, Secret Insinuations, and Misconstructions of Affairs, in Order to prevent the good Issue of the just Measures, Concerted for the general Good Europe.

And now I come to two Capital Articles, in which the Party proceed with the utmost Caution; and which to clear up, may perhaps take me up some time.

1. The Face of the War, and the State of our Spanish Expeditions.

2. The Treaty with Scotland, and the general Appearance of a National Union.

And as I design to search both these things to the bottom, I shall begin with the first; and after laying down the Plan of my

my Design, and speaking to some Heads, I shall interrupt it with the Second, which when I have gone through, I shall resume the other, and trace the Operations of the Field, with useful Observations, Providence permitting, even to the End of the Campaign.

In Searching and Tracing the windings and turnings of our *Whisperers* on the Article of the War, it becomes absolutely necessary, to Expose the Proceedings of the Party with respect to Persons, for that is the present Design.

And here methinks it should seem Imperinent, and I ought to expect his Graces Censure, that I should Attempt the Vindication of the Actions of the Duke of Marlborough; but let those that Suggest this, remember I promise this before I begin.

That I am not Vindicating the Actions of the Duke, but *Exposing the Malice and Designs of a Party*, who would, even out of those most Glorious Actions, suggest something to lessen their Glory, and abate the Sense this Nation ought to have of his Merit; and not that alone, but through him would wound the Ministry and Government, as if acting upon the Foot of Personal or Party Interest.

In this I shall not go back to Mr. Steven and his Unhappy Book, that Gentleman has Mortification enough upon himself, how he has been deceiv'd, and 'tis my Principle,

*Resentments should to Penitence be blind,
And Faults Confess'd, be never call'd to Mind.*

But I come on to the *Whispers of the Party*, and the first Suggestion I meet with, is as Vile as Ridiculous, and discovers the very Spirit of the Party that rais'd it, viz. That the *Affair of Catalonia* was neglected, that the best Troops were Engrossed in *Flanders*, and that it could not be expected to be otherwise, while the Duke manag'd, for that he would have all the Flower of his Army under his own Command, and that he retarded the Supplies from a secret Jealousie, of the rising Glory of the Earl of *Peterborough*, whom he apprehended should some time or other Rival him, in Reputation and Dispute, or at least share with him the Glory of finishing this War.

I shall Trace this Capital Slander in my next, to its Native Hell; from whence, when its Original shall appear, I shall leave it to proceed if possible to a worse.

MISCELLANEA.

Mr. REVIEW,

I Am one that have a Concern in the Mine-Adventure, and therefore desire your Opinion of it, and also of the Perpetual Annuities propos'd. Your Compliance will be a Publick Obligation and a particular one upon,

Your Humble Servant,

April. 16.
1706.

T. S.

I have had some Thoughts long ago, to mention the Matter of the *Mine-Adventure*; in my pursuit of the *Affair of Trade*, I should of course have come to it, under

the Head of Publick Stocks, Banks, &c. of which I design yet to speak at large.

But since the Author of this Letter, seems something Importunate, and other Enquirers also have a little press'd me upon this Matter, I shall not refuse to gratifie them in the next Paper, with such proper Calculations upon the Subject of the *Mine-Adventure*, as to me seem rational, from what I have seen of the said Company, Printed and publish'd by themselves.

And I make this Introduction, not by way of Excuse, since tho' what I shall say, perhaps may not please the Gentlemen Concern'd, and consequently not this Gentleman,